OFFICIAL CAREER OF WILLIAM H.STEWART.

William H. Stewart was elected sheriff of Vigo County in 1856 and his official bond was fixed at $5000 and was approved by the county commissioners in November 1856. The sureties on his bond were A. McGregor, W. R. Mckeen and James Tolbert.-(See Commissioners' record 5, page424).

At a special election November 19, 1860, William H. Stewart was elected mayor of the City of Terre Haute to fill out the unexpired term of Chambers Y. Patterson, who had resigned to take up the duties of judge of the Circuit Court. (See City Record No. 1, page 496).

The following year, May, 1861, William H. Stewart was again elected mayor, this being the regular election. It seems from the election returns that a city election was held every year in May and that Mr. Stewart served as mayor until May 9th, 1863. - (See Record No. 2, page 101).

At the general election in October 1868, the election of county and city officers at that time being in October instead of November, William H. Stewart received the highest number of votes for sheriff of Vigo County. His opponent Nicholas Filbeck, filed contest proceedings, against Mr. Stewart, contesting the election. This contest proceedings was before the county commissioners. The county commissioners were called to hear this contest case, the call being sent out October 26, 1868 - (See the Commissioners' Record 8, p 140). The contestor, Nicholas Filbeck, was represented by

Col. Richard W. Thompson, _____ and _____ _____, and William H. Stewart was respresented by Daniel W. Vorhees, William Mack and James Q. Allen. The finding and judgment of the county commissioners was in favor of Mr. Stewart, and Mr. Filbeck took an appeal of the case to the Circuit Court which appeal was apparently never completed.

Col.William H. Stewart was again elected sheriff in 1870, his bond for sheriff being approved Dec. 8, 1870. (See Commissioners' Record 8, page 472).

In looking up this record of Mr. Stewart, it took the investigator back into the first records of the City of Terre Haute, and the investigation showed that the first record of the City of Terre Haute was made on June 6, 1853, Record 1, Page 1. The first entry is a report of the first election of officers for the City of Terre Haute and recites that the election returns or count of the votes showed that William K. Edwards had been elected mayor. Such report recites that the total vote cast at such election was 752; that William H. Edwards received for mayor 573 of the votes and B. M. Harrison received 179. The votes cast for the other officers of the city are duly set out, and the whole election return id recorded. It is interesting to note that this first volume or record book of the city covers a period from June 6, 1853 to _____1860. This William K. Edwards, the first mayor of Terre Haute, was the legal advisor and attorney in fact for Chauncey Rose, the donor of the various ROSE funds in Terre Haute.

INCIDENTS IN THE LIFE OF WILLIAM H. STEWART.

When a young man, Mr. Stewart visited England, and was in London at the time of the coronation ceremonies at the coronation of Queen Victoria and was personally present.

Mr. Stewart was at one time offered the property of the Terre Haute House by Chauncey Rose, but instead of buying this property, he purchased a farm about ten miles north of Terre Haute, which was then owned by Mrs. Stewart's father, and Mr. Stewart lived here most of the time while not in office, but when in office, he lived in Terre Haute.

A portion of the old jail kept by Mr. Stewart is now, (October. 1924) being demolished to make way for an oil filling station by the Indian Refining Company.

The old Stewart House, originally owned and operated by Mr. Stewart's father, and afterwards by William H. Stewart and his mother, is yet standing on North Second Street and is occupied by x The Terre Haute Iron & Metal Co., dealers in waste material, and the place is known as No. 10 North Second Street. This hotel was located on In-Lot 174 of the original town, now City of Terre Haute, Indiana.

COLONEL WILLIAM H. STEWART.

Born	Came to Vigo County	Died.
August 29, 1819	1829	June 14, 1895.

Col. William H. Stewart, subject of this sketch, was one of the prominent citizens of Vigo County from 1835 until the time of his death, in 1895. His record is well told in the obituary notice, published in the Terre Haute Weekly Gazette of June 20, 1895, such article being copied from the Terre Haute Daily Gazette of Friday, June 14, 1895. Such obituary notice reads as follows:

"At 1:30 p. m. today Wm. H. Stewart, ex-sheriff of Vigo County, died at his residence on South Seventh Street after a long and wasting sickness.

Col. Wm. H. Stewart was born in Louisville, Ky., August 29, 1819. He came with his parents to Parke County, Ind., in 1826 and to Terre Haute in 1829. His father kept the Stewart House, which still stands about half a block north of Main Street on Second Street and is now used as a livery stable. It was the hotel of the city at that time and many notable persond found entertainment there. After his father's death ,the deceased and his mother conducted the hotel for a number of years.

Sept. 23, 1845, the deceased was married to Julia King, daughter of John F. King, one of the prominent merchants of Terre Haute in the early days. Mrs. Stewart died in October of last year. They had seven children: Frank, William, Mrs. Kate R. Markle, Mrs. Mary S. Tyler, Mrs. Cora S. Cummings, Miss Bessie Stewart and Mrs. Della S. Glover. Frank, William and Bessie died during the last ten years.

Col. Stewart was the eldest of six children, five sons and one daughter. The late Mrs. Alexander McGregor, who died a number of years ago, was his only sister. His brothers, were James, Robert, Joseph and Wallace in the order of their ages. They are all deceased. Wallace is supposed to have perished in the Mountain Meadow massacre.

When he was about eighteen years of age, young Stewart made a voyage to England and Ireland, and was there when

Victoria was drowned. He returned to Terre Haute after a few months absence. At an early age he developed a talant for leadership and soon became a very important factor in local politics. It is safe to say that no man held a firmer grip upon the good will and esteem of the people that the subject of this sketch. For about twenty years prior to his retirement to private life he was invincible as a candidate and usually had votes to spare to help his friends who might need "votes to trade."

After holding minor offices he was elected sheriff in 1856. After this he was twice mayor of the city and in 1866 was re-elected sheriff and again in 1870. All told he served about twenty years in official life, and not a word has ever been spoken against his official record. During the war he was made a brevet colonel.

His private life was irreproachable as his public life In all his transactions he was careful to do more than right rather than take any chance of doing less than right. He had a personal magnetism about him which bound people to him "with hooks of steel," and though he was quiet and almost retiring in disposition, he had a courage that knew no fear and a power over men which enabled him to handle the most desperate characters without resort to force.

When Morgan, who was afterwards executed, was confined in the old jail on Third Street, for the murder of Petri, an attempt was made to mob him, but Col. Stewart foiled it and kept the mob at bay almost single handed. He guarded the

entrance doubly armed and gave warning that every man who crossed the threshold would be a dead man. The mob was wild for revenge, but they knew that in that frail, slender man who stood at his post of duty, there was "something dangerous, which their wisdom better would avoid," and they avoided it. Had a less fearless, determined man been there, the mob would have carried out its purpose.

During the last sixteen or eighteen years Col. Stewart and his family have lived at his country place, ten miles north east of the city, until about two years ago, when he returned to the city with such members of his family as still remain with him. He had been in delicate health for several years, and early in January took his bed, where he remained, through a lingering illness, until death relieved him.

He had often expressed a wish that he might die suddenly, but his last illness was unusually long and very painful. In spite of his suffering his mind was clear to the last. In his death Vigo County loses one of her most highly esteemed citizens and hundreds who knew him will feel that the loss is a personal one."

At the next council meeting after the death of Mr. Stewart, Mayor Fred A. Ross, then mayor of the City of Terre Haute, formerly announced to the Council assembled, the fact of the passing of the former mayor. The pall bearers named in the resolutions of the said Council were the Honorable James C. Kolsem, the Honorable Frank Donaldson, the Honorable Henry M. Griswold, ex-mayors of the City of Terre Haute and the Honorable Fred A. Ross, then mayor of the City of Terre Haute.

Examination of therecords of real estate title in Vigo County shows that the subject of this sketch, Colonel William H. Stewart, dealt quite freely in real estate for his own personal profit. He at one time purchased of M.S. Durham, in 1861, the undivided one-half in the property now occupied by the Fairbanks Memorial Home for Aged Women at Seventh St. and Eighth Avenue, and on which was located a portion of the frame house now standing on the west end of the property. July 22, 1864 Judge John T. Scott purchased of M. S. Durham the other undivided one-half in such property. This tract, when owned by Mr. Stewart and Mr. Scott, extended from Seventh Street to La Fayette Avenue and from the center of what is now Eighth Avenue to the south line of the last named property. In November, 1864, after it was purchased by Mr. Scott, they divided the same between them, Mr. Scott taking the west end which had the house upon it, and Mr. Stewart taking the east end, the dividing line being about the center of what is now eighth street.

The deed dividing the property between the two is a little different from other deeds of this time and apparently of that time, in this, that the partition deed is all one instrument and sets out which each party is to hold as his own and free from the rights of the other, and each conveying to the other, and this instrument is signed by both of the parties and their wives.

Colonel William H. Stewart als o owned at one time h the property on which is now located the Inion Hospital and this is where he lived at the time it was desired to elect him mayor of Terre Haute, but at this time the property was ourside the city limits, and in order to make Mr. Stewart a resident of Terre Haute, the City Council passed an ordinance taking into the city just that plat of ground between Sixth and Seventh Streets and south of the line known as Hancock Street, and this is where the boundry line of the City of Terre Haute was located for many years in that section of Terre Haute. He purchased this property from William B. Tuell and John P. Usher August 29, 1856. Mr. Stewart sold this property December 5, 1861 to Captain William Barrick, who was at that time captain of a steamboat operating on the Wabash River and sometime the Mississippi River to New Orleans.

Colonel William H. Stewart was the sheriff of Vigo County at the time Oliver A. Morgan was tried and condemned to be hung for the murder of John Petri, and it became his official duty to carry out the judgment of the court and execute Morgan by hanging. This was the last legal execution in Vigo County.

After this, the law was changed so that all legal executions were ordered to take place within the walls of the state penetentiary at Jeffersonville, and later at Michigan City, Indiana. There were many stories told of incidents that happened during the confinement and preparation for the execution of Morgan. The jail at that time was on South Third Street, at the corner of Third and Walnut Streets, and was provided with apartments for the sheriff and his family. While Morgan was confined there, awaiting his execution, there was a jail delivery and nearly all of the prisoners escaped, but Morgan refused to run, and when asked by the sheriff why he did not escape with the other prisoners, he said, "I would rather be hanged by a gentleman like you than be killed by a mob.", as he believe he would be killed if he went outside of the jail.

Legal executions at that time were public affairs and the scaffold was usually built within the yard of the jail but at this time the sheriff erected the scaffold in the street, and to this some of the citizens objected and stated their objection to the sheriff and demanded that the former custom of law be complied with - that the scaffold be built within the jail yard. This the sheriff refused to do, for the reason that his family lived in the jail and he would not put them to the horror of seeing the scaffold erected right in their view for the next two or three days before the execution took place. The sheriff was threatened with mandamus proceedings in the court, and retorted that he hoped he would be

mandated, for if he was that would give him some excuse to resign his office, which he would do immediately if the court mandated him to erect the scaffold in the jail yard. Mr.Stewart personally believed that Morgan should not be hung and he and the attorney for the prosecution, among whom was Daniel W. Vorhees, afterwards United States senator, had many warm controversies over the question of justice of carrying out such order of execution.